

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /081 W

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R 261926Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5437

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBSSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 1446

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, GJ, ELAB

SUBJECT: LABOR AND POLITICAL MANEUVERING STEPS UP IN GRENADA

1. SUMMARY. POLITICAL ACTIVITY AT ALL LEVELS HAS STEPPED UP IN RECENT WEEKS IN GREANDA AS PRIME MINISTER GAIRY ATTEMPTS TO REESTABLISH CONTROL OVER THE LABOR UNION MOVEMENT AND AS THE FIRST SERIOUS CRACKS APPEAR IN THE OPPOSITION PEOPLES' ALLIANCE. BECAUSE GENERAL ELECTIONS ARE NOT REQUIRED UNTIL 1981 AT THE LATEST, THE POLITICAL ACTIVITY HAS LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF CHANGING THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT. THE ATTEMPT BY GAIRY TO REIN-IN WHAT TO KNOW HAS BEEN A RELATIVELY INDEPENDENT LABOR MOVEMENT, HOWEVER, PROMISES TO BUILD GREATER POLITICAL PRESSURES AND MAY EVENTUALLY RESULT IN A LABOR-GOVERNMENT SHOWDOWN INVOLVING STRIKES AND EVEN MORE VIOLENT POLITICAL POWER PLAYS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIME MINISTER ERIC GAIRY IS NOW ATTEMPTING TO REGAIN THE PREMINANCE IN THE LABOR FIELD THAT HE AND HIS MANUAL, MARITIME AND INTELLECTUAL WORKERS UNION (MMIWU) ONCE ENJOYED. ALONG WITH THREE TAXI ASSOCIATIONS, THE MMIWU HAS JOINED IN A NEW TRADES UNION CONGRESS DESIGNED TO  
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RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS AND OTHER EXISTING UNIONS AWAY FROM THE OLD TRADES UNION COUNCIL. GAIRY RESTS HIS HOPES OF ATTRACTING OTHER MAJOR UNIONS - SUCH AS THE GRENADA UNION OF TEACHERS, THE CIVIL SERVICE ASSOCIATION OR THE TECHNICAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION - ON HIS REPUTATION AS A TRADE UNION LEADER (HE IS PRESIDENT-GENERAL FOR LIFE OF THE MMIWU) , HIS ABILITY AS PRIME MINISTER

TO PRODUCE AND DISPENSE JOBS AND CONTRACTS AND A GROWING DISSATISFACTION AMONG OTHERWISE ANTI-GAIRY UNION LEADERS THAT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT THE EMERGENCE OF OPPOSITION NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT (NJM) MARXISTS IN POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY IN SOME OF THE EXISTING UNIONS. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION SOURCES IN PORT OF SPAIN INDICATE THAT AS THE COMPETING TUC'S RAISE THE GENERAL AWARENESS OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, THERE MOST PROBABLY WILL OCCUR GREATER POLITICAL POLARIZATION AND LONG STRIKES THAT WOULD BE DEVASTATING TO AN ALREADY STAGGERING ECONOMY. SOME GRENADA OBSERVERS AGREE.

3. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MAY THERE ARE PUBLIC INDICATIONS THAT THERE EXIST SERIOUS AND IRREPARABLE CRACKS IN THE OPPOSITION PEOPLES' ALLIANCE, FORMED TO CONTEST THE 1976 GENERAL ELECTIONS WITH A UNITED ANTI-GAIRY FRONT. THE MARXIST NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT (NJM), THE UNITED PEOPLES' PARTY (UPP) AND GRENADA NATIONAL PARTY (GNP) FORMED THE ALLIANCE ONLY TO CONTEST THE ELECTIONS AND GENERALLY HAVE GLOSSED OVER THEIR FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES IN THE INTEREST OF COOPERATING AGAINST GAIRY. THE ALLIANCE'S RAISON D'ETRE HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY SUSPECT, HOWEVER. UPP PARLIAMENTARIAN WINSTON WHYTE WAS QUOTE RESIGNED UNQUOTE FROM THE POSITION OF UPP POLITICAL LEADER IN EARLY MAY AND REPLACED WITH WHAT IS HOPED TO BE A MORE CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTIVE AND DEDICATED LEADER, SIMEON GREEN. THE UPP ALSO PUBLISHED AN AD IN MID-MAY THAT NOTED THE UPP'S PRO-INVESTMENT STANCE AND CRITIZED THE SOCIALISM BEING ADVOCATED BY THE NJM. ON MAY 24, WHYTE AND GNP REPRESENTATIVE HERBERT BLAIZE DID NOT FOLLOW THE NJM OUT OF A SESSION OF PARLIAMENT IMMEDIATELY AS WOULD BEFIT A CLOSE ALLIANCE IN JOINT PROTEST AND BLAIZE ACTUALLY RETURNED TO THE CHAMBER FOLLOWING THE NJM WALKOUT.

4. COMMENT. THE LABOR ACTIVITY AND SPLITTING AND REGROUPING THAT HAS BEGUN AMONG MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES IN GRENADA PROMISE TO EXACERBATE THE ECONOMIC AND BUDGETARY PROBLEMS FACED BY THE GAIRY GOVERNMENT. THAT SERIOUS STRIKE ACTIVITY MAY RESULT FROM GAIRY'S ATTEMPT TO REIMPOSE CONTROL OVER THE LABOR MOVEMENT IN GRENADA IS ALMOST A FOREGONE CONCLUSION AND THE STRIKES WOULD BE POLITICAL, NOT INDUSTRIAL ACTIONS. WHAT NEW ALIGNMENTS MAY EVENTUALLY OCCUR ARE HARD TO PREDICT ALTHOUGH IT IS SAFE TO SAY THAT THERE WILL BE AN ATTEMPT TO FORM AN ANTI-GAIRY COALITION SEPARATE FROM THE NJM. GAIRY,

MEANWHILE, LIKE SO MANY OTHER CARIBBEAN LEADERS, WILL  
CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE LUXURY OF A DIVIDED AND RELATIVELY  
INEFFECTIVE OPPOSITION. THE NJM WILL HAVE TO  
DECIDE WHETHER BROADER POLITICAL APPEAL AND MARXIST  
IDEOLOGICAL PURITY COMPATIBLE AT THIS TIME.  
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## Message Attributes

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